



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

7 JULY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Campbell – Crypto-Related Cyber Attacks Rise with Bitcoin's Rise

(U) Crypto-related cyber-attacks are soaring just as quick as Bitcoin's rise to prominence, according to a new report from digital security firm Barracuda Networks. Barracuda chief technology officer (CTO) Fleming Shi says the firm has witnessed a strong surge in the number of cyberattacks in a six-month period, around the time when Bitcoin's bull market kicked into high gear. Shi says that hackers are getting cleverer with their techniques, often finding ways to impersonate crypto wallets or similar apps that snag users' log-in details.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [Daily Hodl](#)

(U) Linda Vista – Man Killed by 'Gang Challenge' Shooting

(U) Authorities Tuesday publicly identified a 25-year-old man who was killed last week in a gang-related shooting in Linda Vista. Investigators determined that the victim and three companions were approached by two or three men who "issued a gang challenge," after which one of them pulled a handgun and opened fire. The suspects fled in an SUV and police are asking the public for help in providing any leads, witness statements, or any information that will help arrest the gang members accused of murdering the victim.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [Times of San Diego](#)

(U) Los Angeles – Homicide Rates Increase, largely due to Firearms

(U) The percentage of homicides in Los Angeles that involved a firearm has climbed from 66% in 2019, to 70% last year and currently is running at about 75%. Officers are finding guns at significantly higher rates as well. As of last month, the department had seized 661 ghost guns, unregistered weapons that cannot be traced to an owner, compared to 813 in all of 2020. While gangs have undoubtedly played a role in the killings, police point as well to what they say is a newfound willingness to settle disputes with a gun that goes beyond any gang affiliation.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) Napa – Police Ask for Public's Help in Gang Investigation

(U) Authorities are investigating two gang-related incidents over the weekend. One suspect was arrested in connection with a shooting Saturday at an apartment complex, police said. Nobody was injured in the shooting according to police. The shooting followed a Friday night attack in which five people suffered stab wounds according to police. The shooting incident was preceded by an argument between people at an apartment complex in which gang slurs were yelled, according to witnesses.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [Patch](#)

(U) Victorville – Illegal Cannabis Plants, Guns, and Stolen Property Seized

(U) Victorville police adjutants and detectives, including multiple executive and gang teams, recently issued search warrants on property used to illegally cultivate cannabis. According to a news release,

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several suspects were detained during the service of the search warrant. Authorities seized more than 300-pounds of processed marijuana, 1,000 plants at various stages of growth, a rifle, two pistols, ammunition, and a stolen toy transport trailer.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [California News Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Capitol Police Opening Regional Offices

(U) Washington – In a new announcement, two US Capitol Police (USCP) field offices will open in California and Florida, with additional states expected soon, USCP said. The purpose will be "to investigate threats to Members of Congress." USCP revealed the new offices will be in the Tampa and San Francisco areas because that is where many of the threats are concentrated, and more offices are on the way. The expansion of the Capitol Police presence beyond Washington DC is part of a greater effort to protect lawmakers in their home districts in the face of increased concerns for their safety. The police reported in May that there has been a 107% increase in threats to members of Congress compared to 2020 and predicted no let-up in sight.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Republican National Committee Servers Hacked by Russia-Linked Group

(U) Washington – The Republican National Committee (RNC) said that none of its data was accessed in the hack on its third-party provider, Synnex. Media reported the breach earlier Tuesday, citing two people familiar with the matter. The hackers are part of a group known as APT 29 or Cozy Bear, which has been linked to Russia's foreign intelligence service, the report said. The gang was previously accused of hacking the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in 2016, and of carrying out the December 2020 SolarWinds intrusion, in which several US government agencies were infiltrated.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [New York Post](#)

(U) Massachusetts – Rise of the Moors Militiamen to Appear in Court

(U) Medford – Ten of the 11 militiamen arrested by Massachusetts State Police following a nine-hour-long armed standoff that shut down a portion of Interstate 95 over the holiday weekend will be arraigned Tuesday. The alleged militiamen each have been charged with eight counts of unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, use of body armor in commission of a crime, possession of a high-capacity magazine, improper storage of a firearm in a vehicle, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

SOURCE: 6 July 2021, [Fox News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) China – Nine Arrested, Including Teenagers, Over Alleged Terror Plot

(U) Hong Kong – Nine people have been arrested in an alleged terror plot where police said the accused had rented a room in a hotel to build bombs and planned to attack the city's courts, transport networks, and streets. The arrests come as Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam warned against "illegal ideas" spreading throughout the city. The group is being held under the national security law, which has been used to crush dissent after years of pro-democracy protests led by mostly young activists. Police said they seized the highly explosive chemical triacetone-triperoxide (TATP) in a hotel room that was used as a laboratory for bomb-making equipment.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [BBC](#)

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(U) Haiti – President Jovenel Moïse Assassinated at Home

(U) Port-au-Prince – Haiti's President Jovenel Moise was assassinated after a group of unidentified people attacked his private residence, the country's interim prime minister said in a statement Wednesday. "Hateful, inhuman, and barbaric" he added, Haiti's national police and other authorities are in control of the situation. According to interim Prime Minister Claude-Joseph, Moise's wife, First Lady Martine Moses, has been hospitalized. The late Tuesday killing occurred as political and economic instability deepens and gang violence surges.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [California News Times](#)

(U) Spain – Chinese Nationals Freed from Forced Labor on Cannabis Farm

(U) Barcelona – Ten modern-day slaves said to have been unaware there was a COVID-19 pandemic have been freed from a Spanish cannabis farm where the drug was being produced for export to Britain. The Chinese workers reacted to a police operation at the warehouse where they were working in the province of Barcelona by asking them why the officers were wearing face masks. Detectives say Glasgow was the intended destination of most of the cannabis, although some was also going to be smuggled into the Netherlands. Four-of-the-eight people arrested and accused of crimes including membership of a criminal gang, human trafficking, and drugs offenses.

SOURCE: 7 July 2021, [Daily Record](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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